

MARVEL

**LIMITED
SERIES**

5 OF 5

PARENTAL ADVISORY

**RUCKA
DI GIANDOMENICO
HOLLINGSWORTH**

PUNISHER

WAR ZONE



INSIDE

HAWKEYE IS BROOKLYN'S MIGHTIEST HERO!

VENOM SIGHTINGS IN PHILADELPHIA? HOUSTON, WE HAVE A WOLF PROBLEM!



ESCAPE!

MANHUNT FOR PUNISHER

AND ACCOMPLICE

By Norah Winters

In what authorities are calling a textbook example of military precision and misdirection, the Punisher attacked the Dept. of Corrections vehicle transporting convicted murderer Rachel Cole-Alves and freed her from her armed escort this morning.

Former Marine Sergeant Cole-Alves has been found guilty in the deaths of NYPD Officers Peter McMann, Oliver Capretti, and Detective Walter Bolt, and was being transported upstate for incarceration pending the penalty phase of her trial. The DA has announced his intentions to seek the death penalty for Alves.

Rumors of involvement by members of the super hero team The Avengers in the manhunt for Cole-Alves and Frank Castle, better known by his nom de guerre of The Punisher, have been strenuously denied.

Cole-Alves's attorney, Matt Murdock, issued a statement, urging his client to surrender herself to the authorities. "We have filed a motion to appeal the verdict," Murdock's statement continued. "All throughout her trial, Sergeant Cole-Alves was used as a proxy for the Punisher, who the authorities have absolutely failed to bring to heel. They can't have him, so they went after her." (continued page 4)



NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #698

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COME ON,
SOMEBODY,
TALK TO
ME...



...SPIDER-
MAN,
RESPOND...

OWIEE.

...IRON MAN,
RESPOND.
WE'VE BEEN
DUPED--

I'M
HERE,
CAP...

...PUNISHER
STOLE IRON
MAN'S ARMOR,
HE BLASTED
ME.

HE'S GOT
SERGEANT
ALVES.

HE...

...HOW
DID HE
ACCOMPLISH
THAT?

BY CUTTING THE
POWER LINKAGE
BETWEEN THE STARK
BUILDING AND THE CITY
GRID JUST LONG
ENOUGH TO FORCE
THE REDUNDANCIES
TO ENGAGE...

...THUS EXPLOITING
A WEAKNESS IN THE
SYSTEM THAT I AM
DAMN WELL GOING
TO MAKE CERTAIN
NO ONE CAN EVER
EXPLOIT AGAIN.

WHICH WAS
ACTUALLY
GENUINELY
CLEVER
OF HIM.

HE THEN **SNUCK** UP ON
ME, HIT ME ON THE
HEAD, DUCT-TAPED MY
HANDS AND FEET,
SHOVED A RAG IN MY
MOUTH, AND STUFFED
ME IN THE JAM PANTRY.



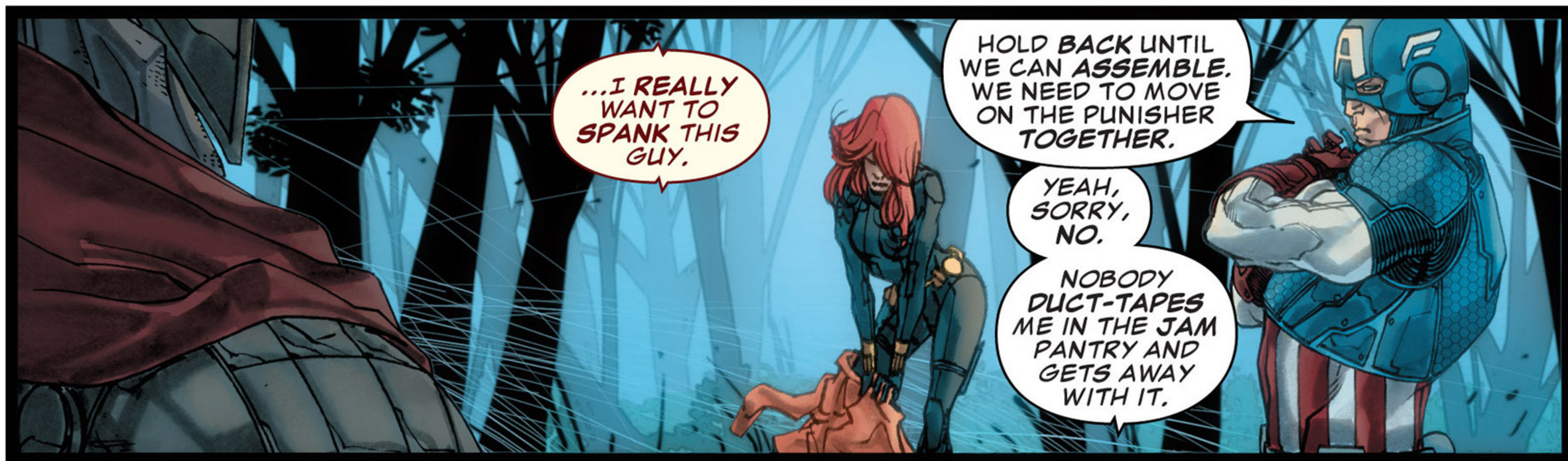
YOU HAVE
A PANTRY
JUST FOR
JAM?

OF
COURSE.
DON'T
YOU?



ANYWAY,
I'M UP, I'M
MOBILE, AND I'M
TRACKING THE
ARMOR HE
STOLE.

ETA TWENTY
SECONDS,
I'M FEEDING THE
COORDINATES
TO YOUR
POSITIONS...

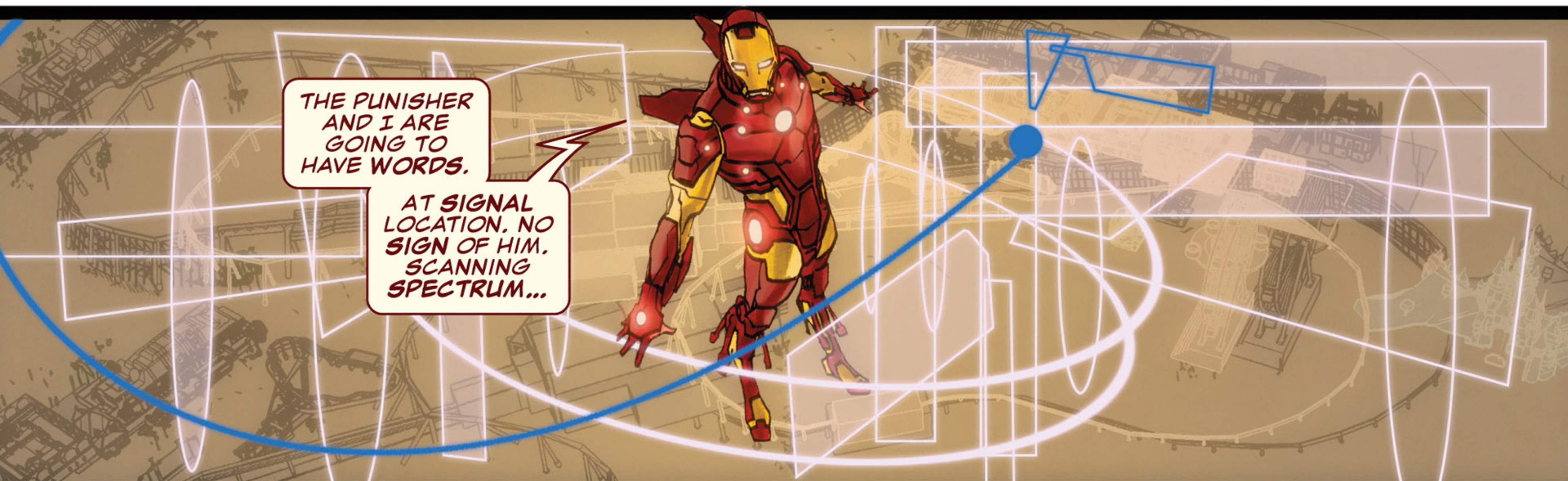


...I REALLY
WANT TO
SPANK THIS
GUY.

HOLD BACK UNTIL
WE CAN ASSEMBLE.
WE NEED TO MOVE
ON THE PUNISHER
TOGETHER.

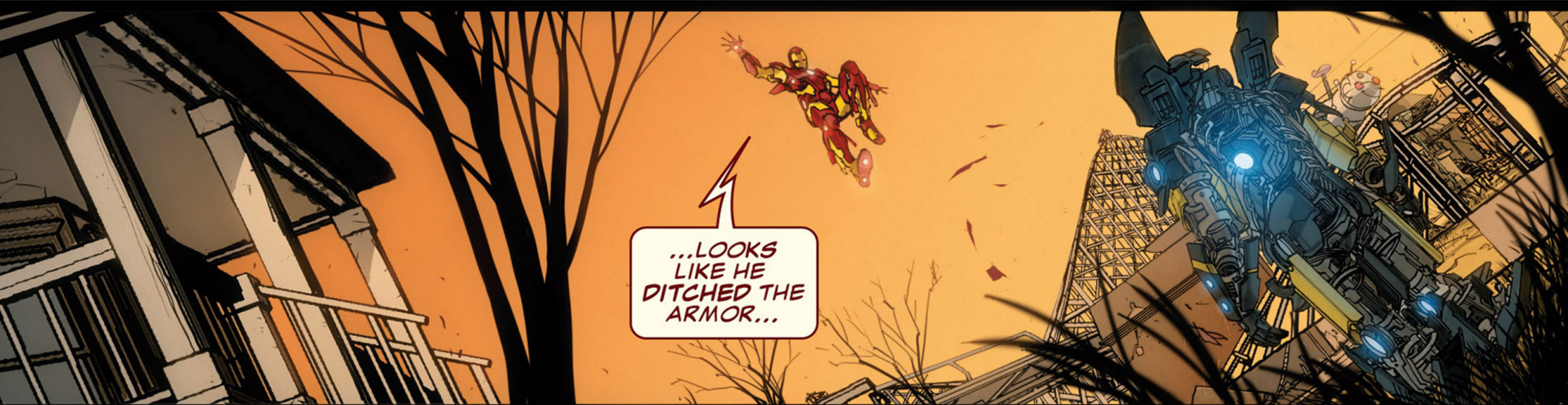
YEAH,
SORRY,
NO.

NOBODY
DUCT-TAPES
ME IN THE JAM
PANTRY AND
GETS AWAY
WITH IT.



THE PUNISHER
AND I ARE
GOING TO
HAVE WORDS.

AT SIGNAL
LOCATION. NO
SIGN OF HIM.
SCANNING
SPECTRUM...

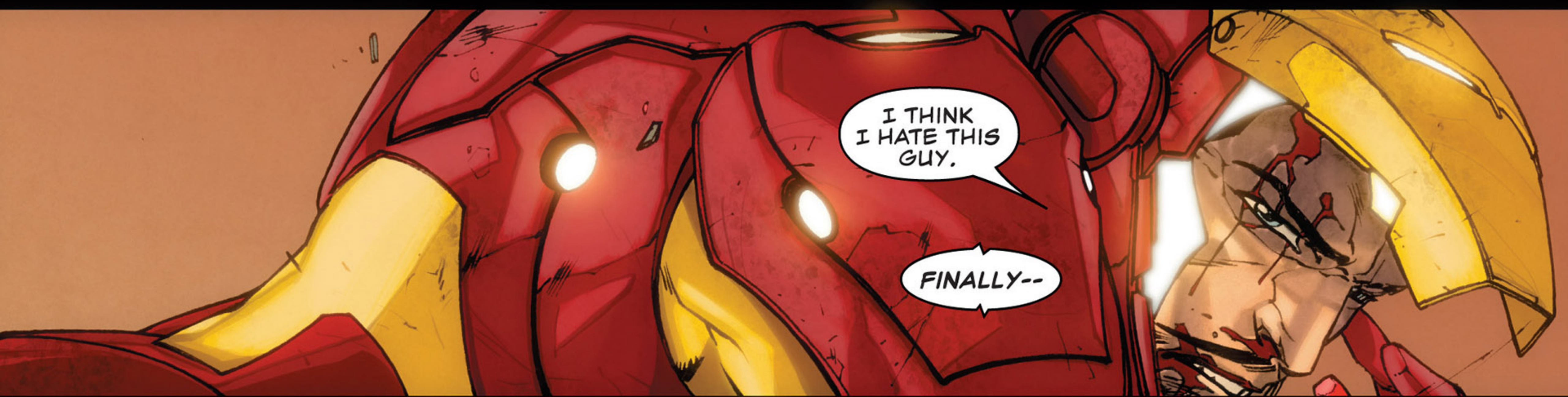
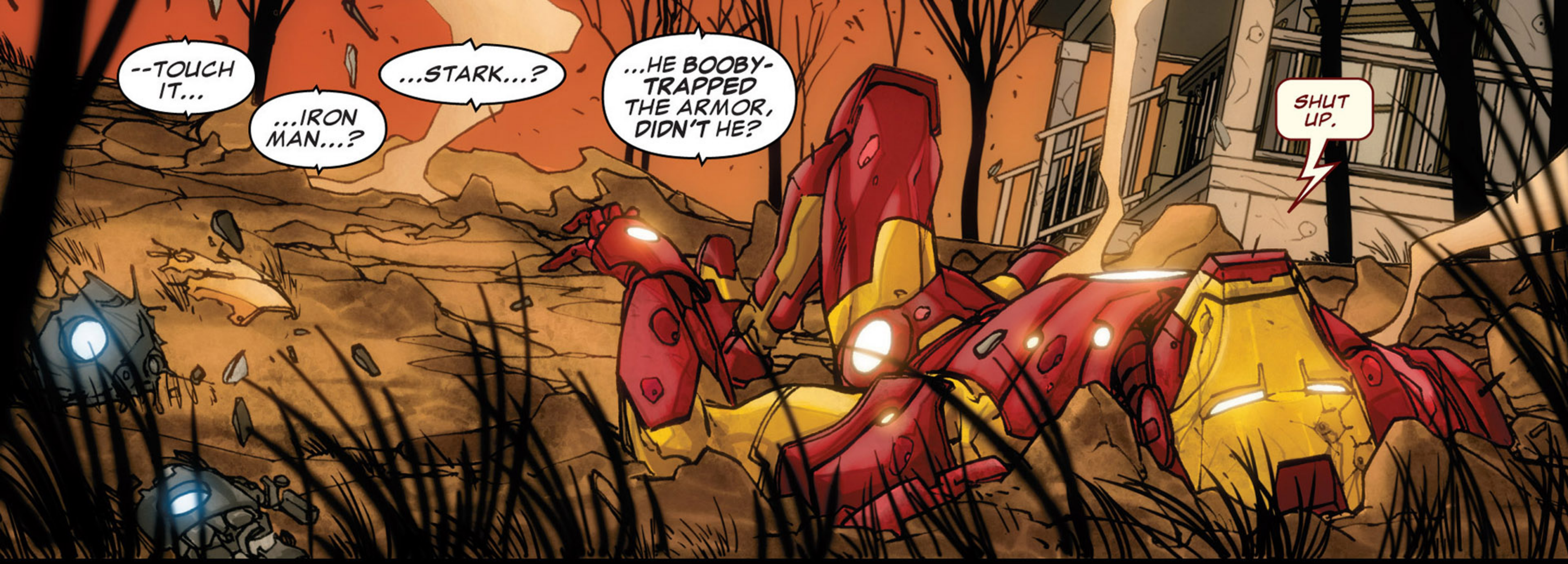


...LOOKS
LIKE HE
DITCHED THE
ARMOR...



TONY, I
WOULDN'T--

--WHUMMPSKSS--



RYE PLAYLAND,
WHITE PLAINS.

"...HE CAN'T
HAVE GONE
FAR."

YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE COME
BACK.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE COME
BACK FOR ME,
CAPTAIN.

I'M
GUILTY, THEY
FOUND ME
GUILTY.

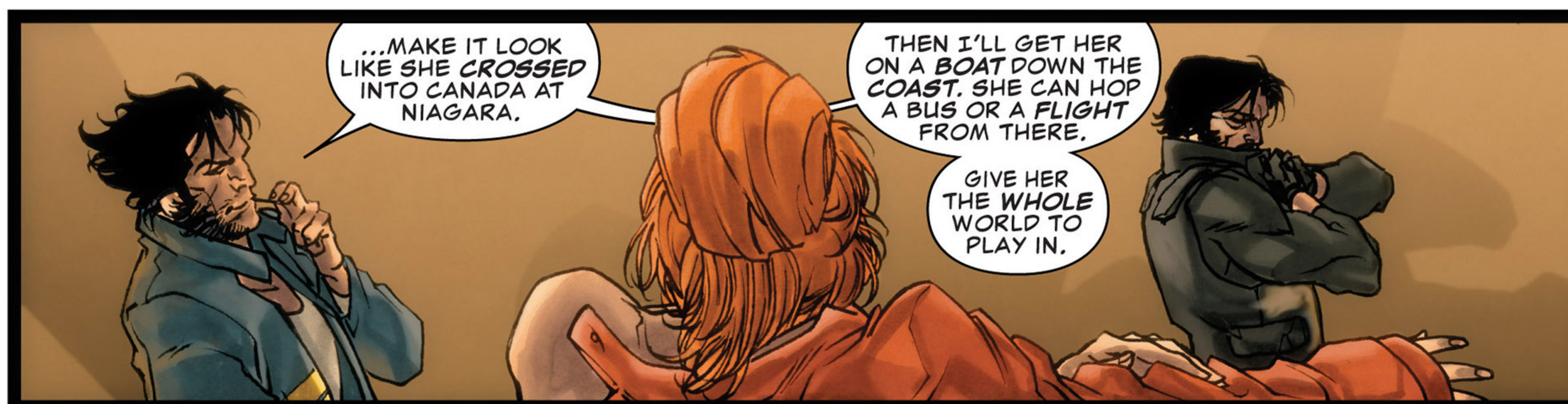
FUN HOUSE

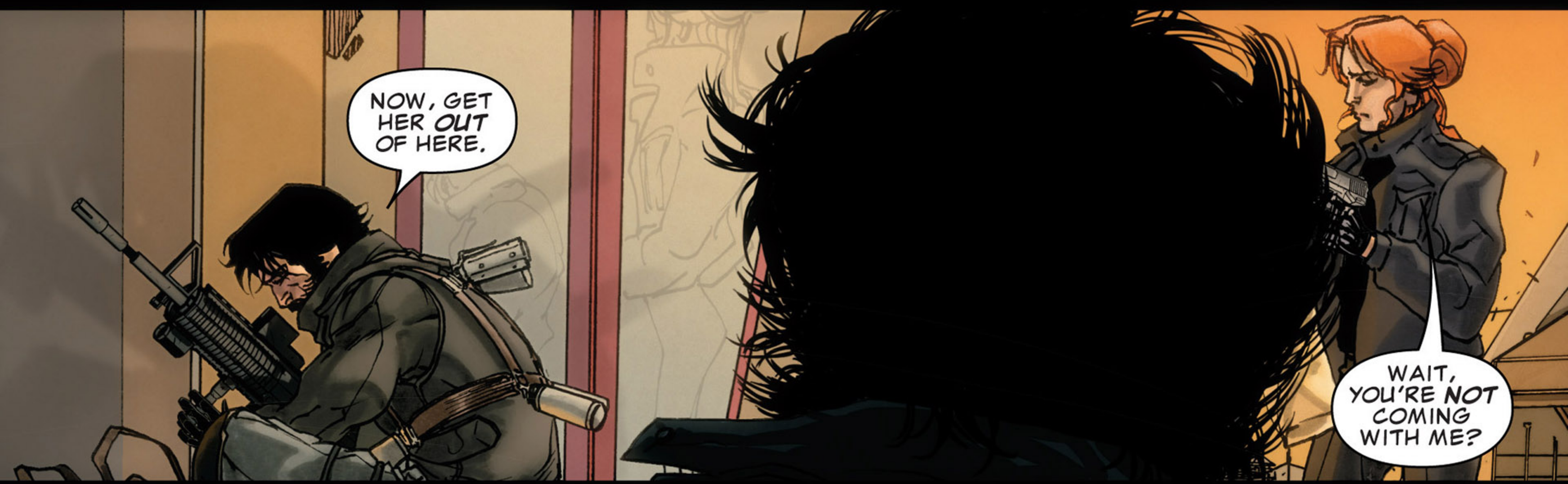
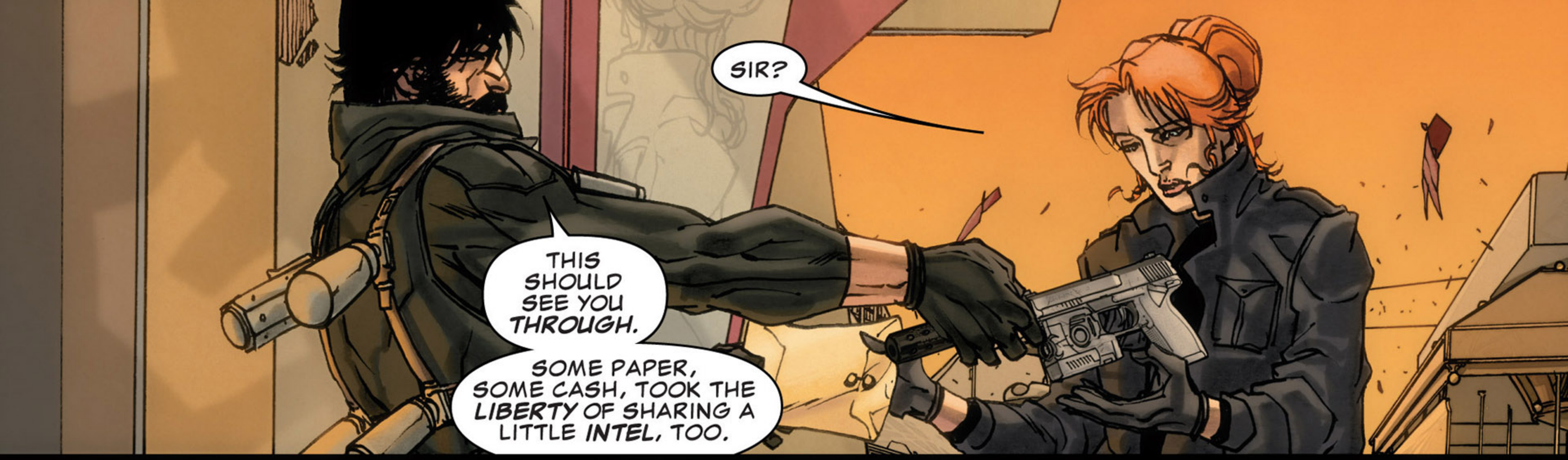
WE'RE
ALL GUILTY,
SERGEANT.

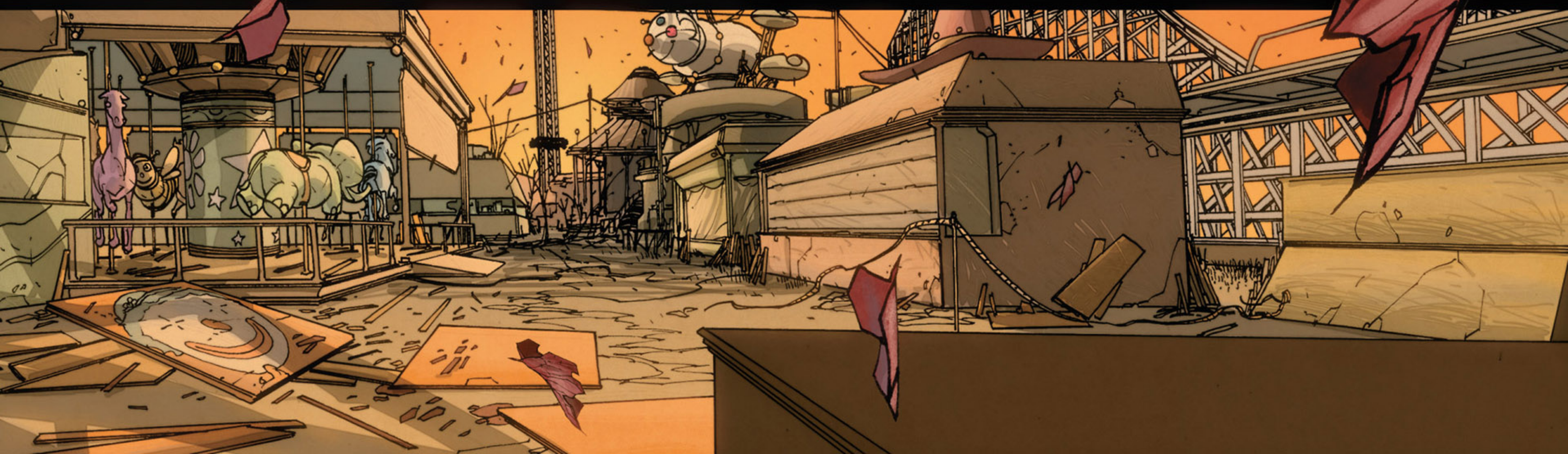
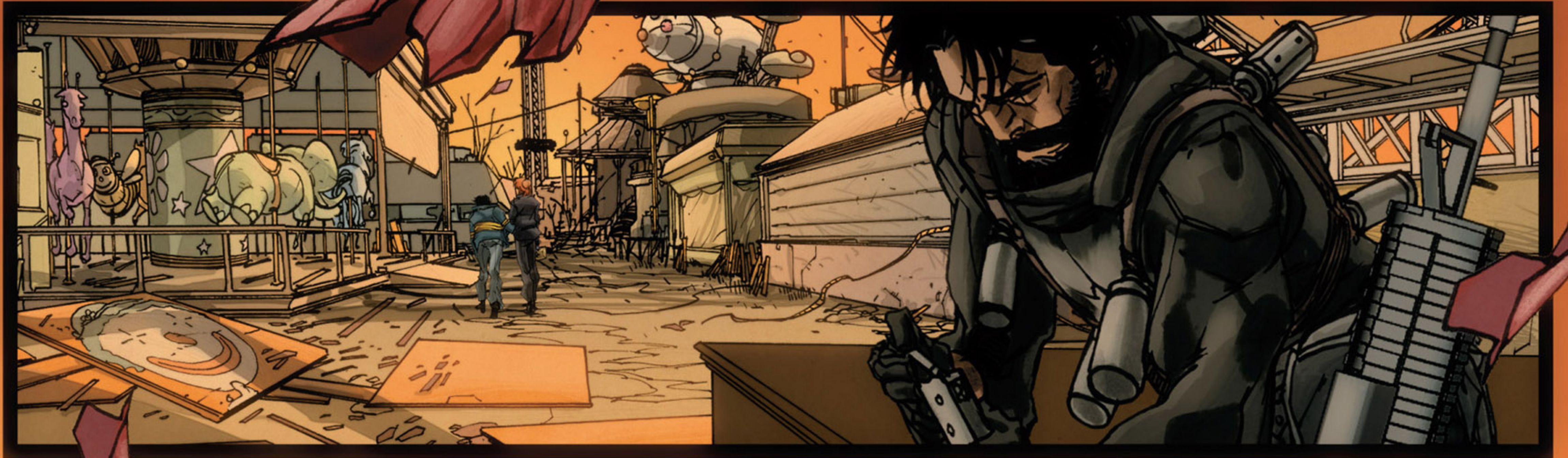
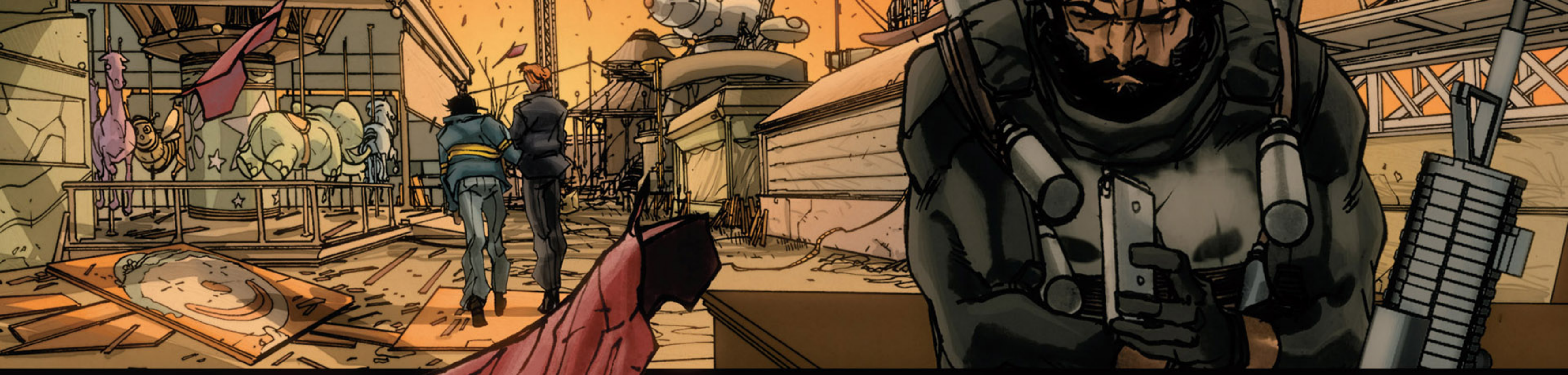
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
THIS IS
ABOUT.

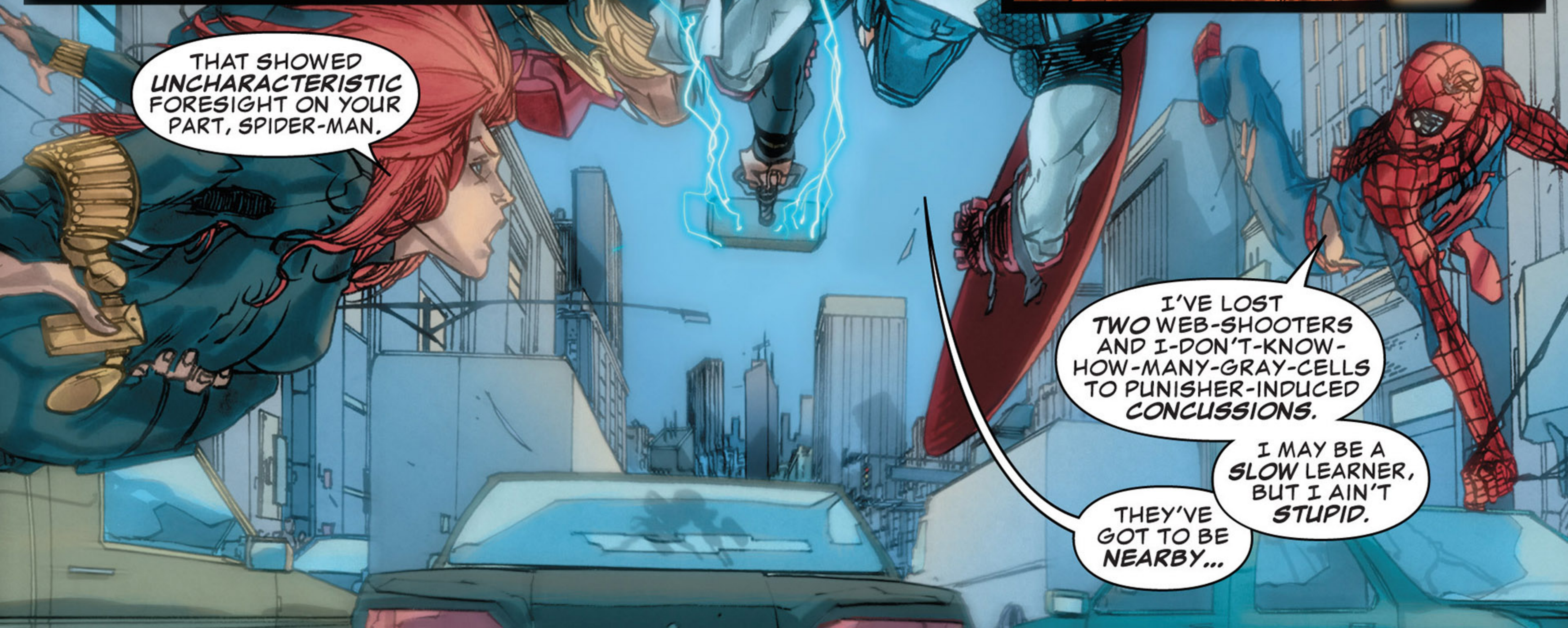
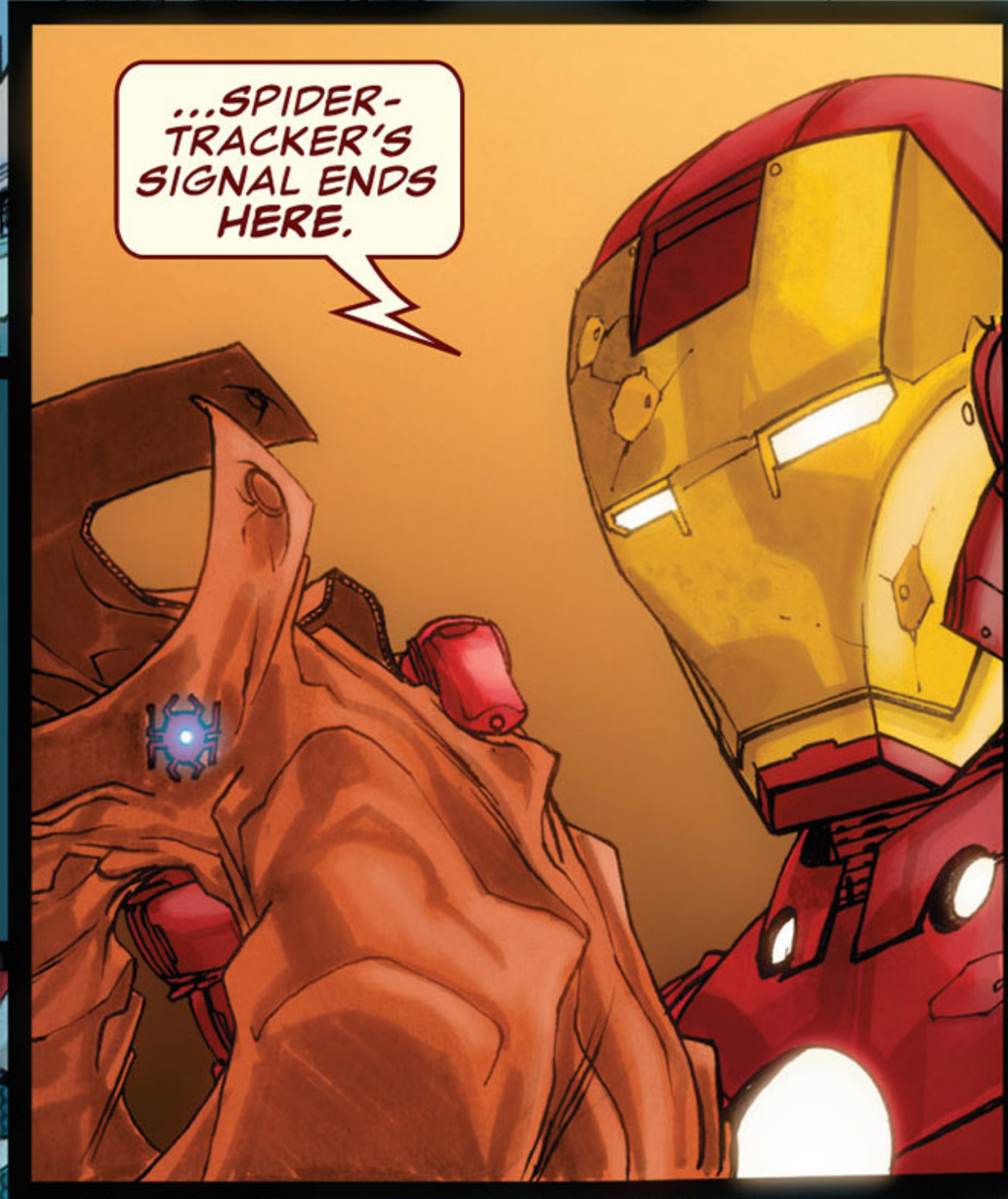
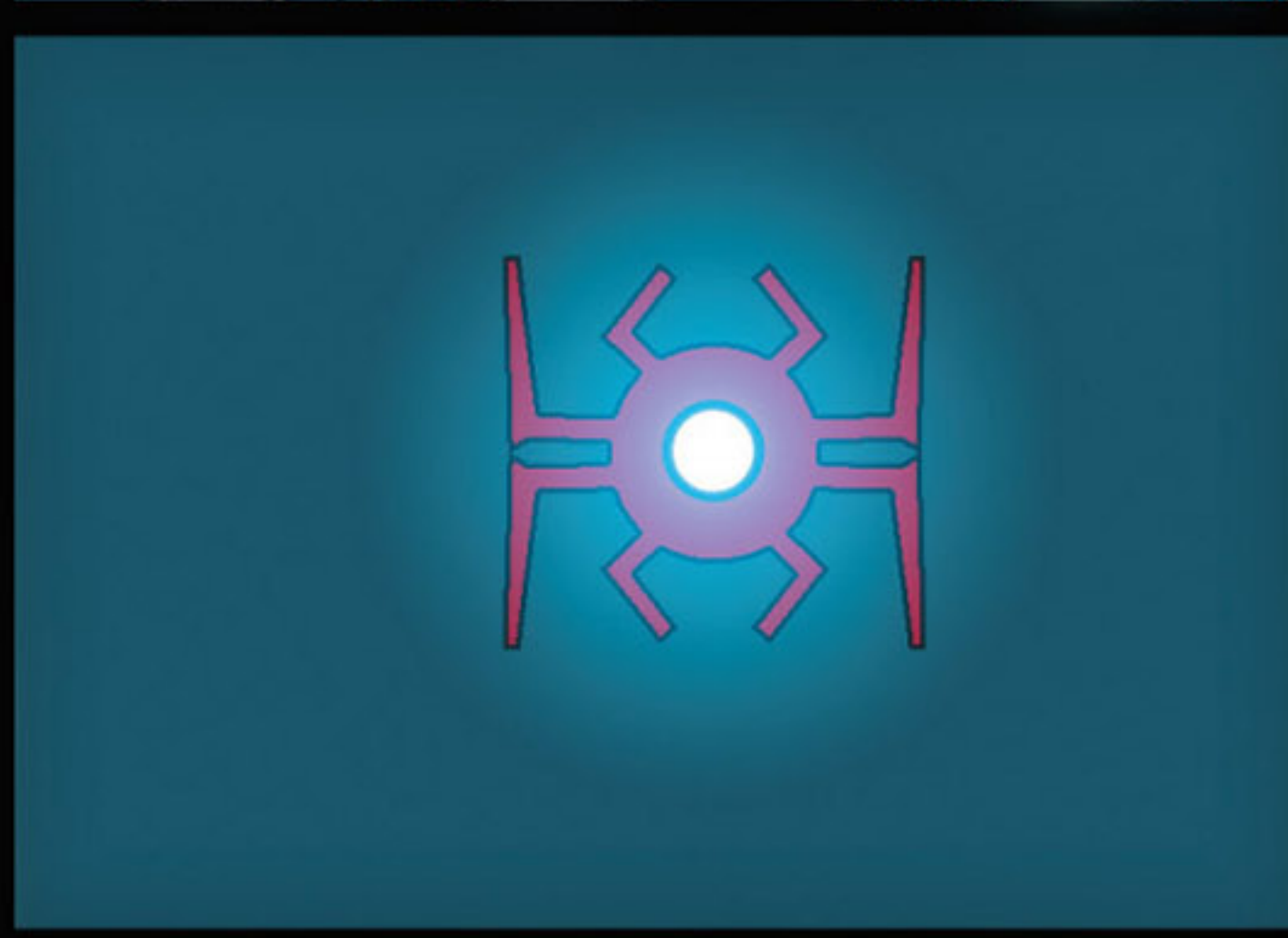
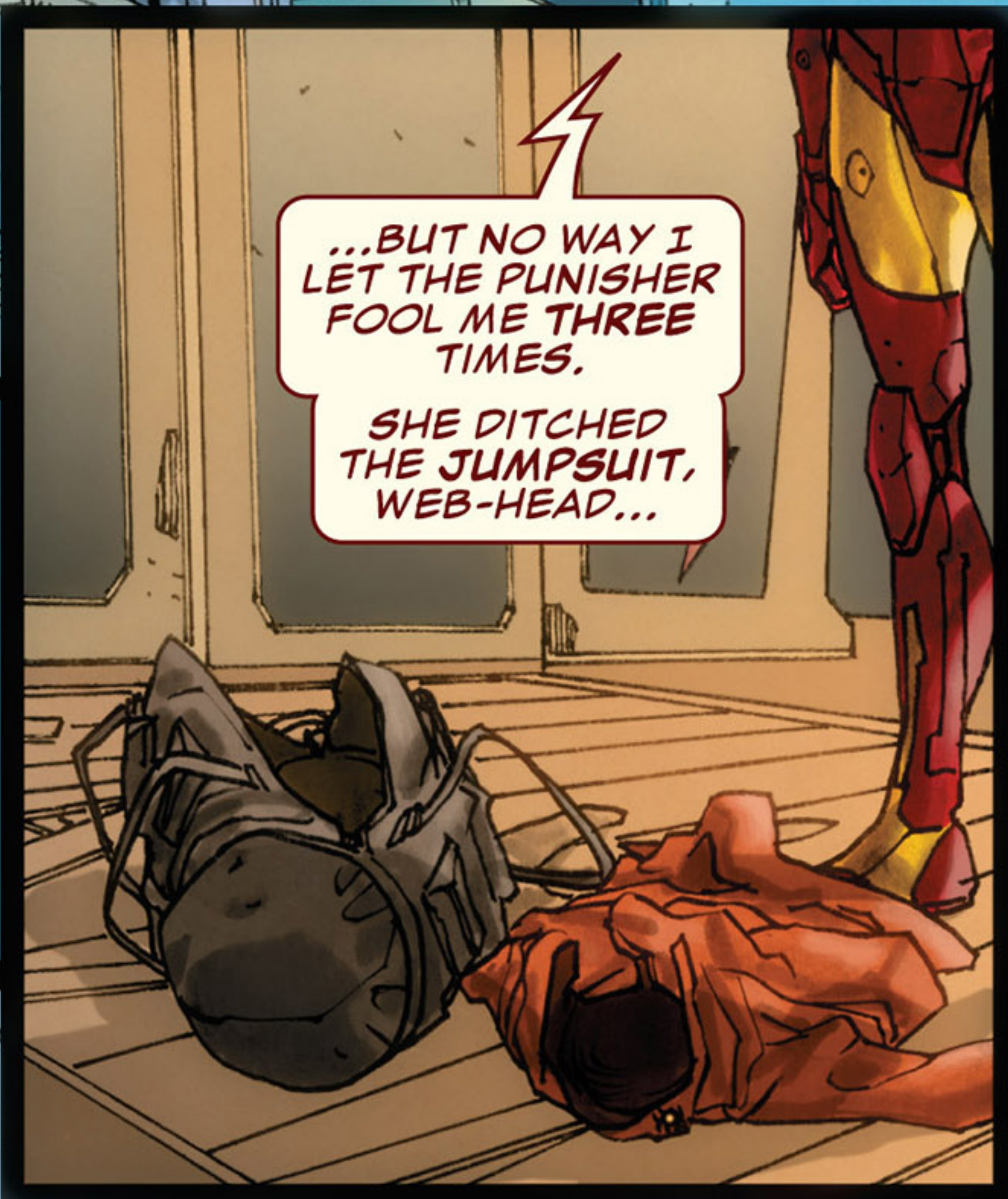
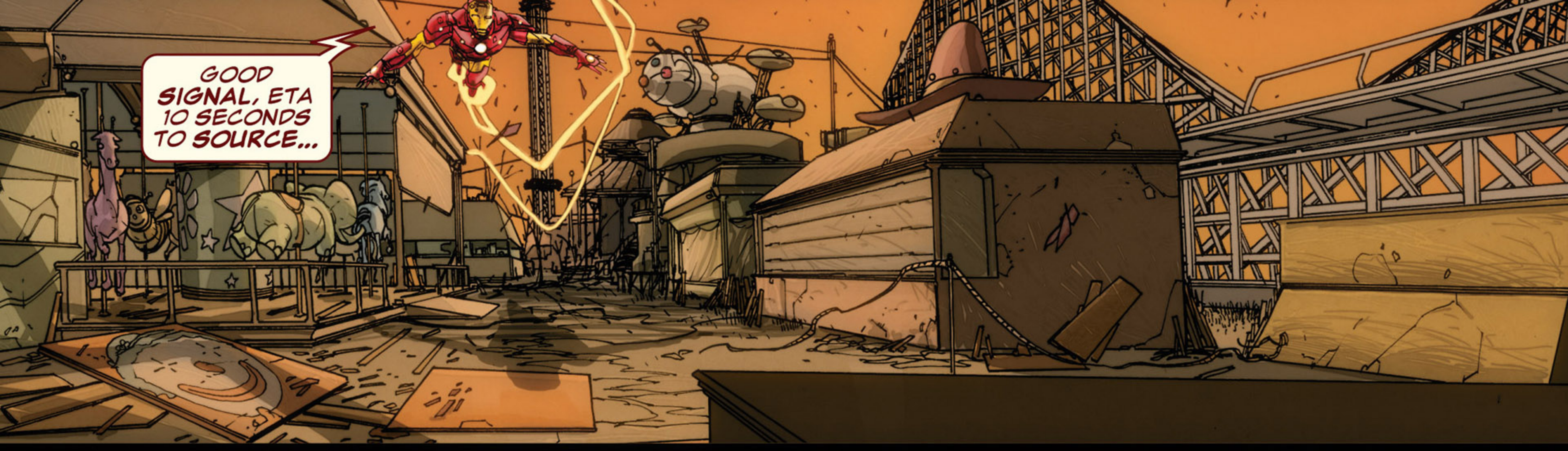
PUT THOSE
ON. WE DON'T
HAVE MUCH
TIME.

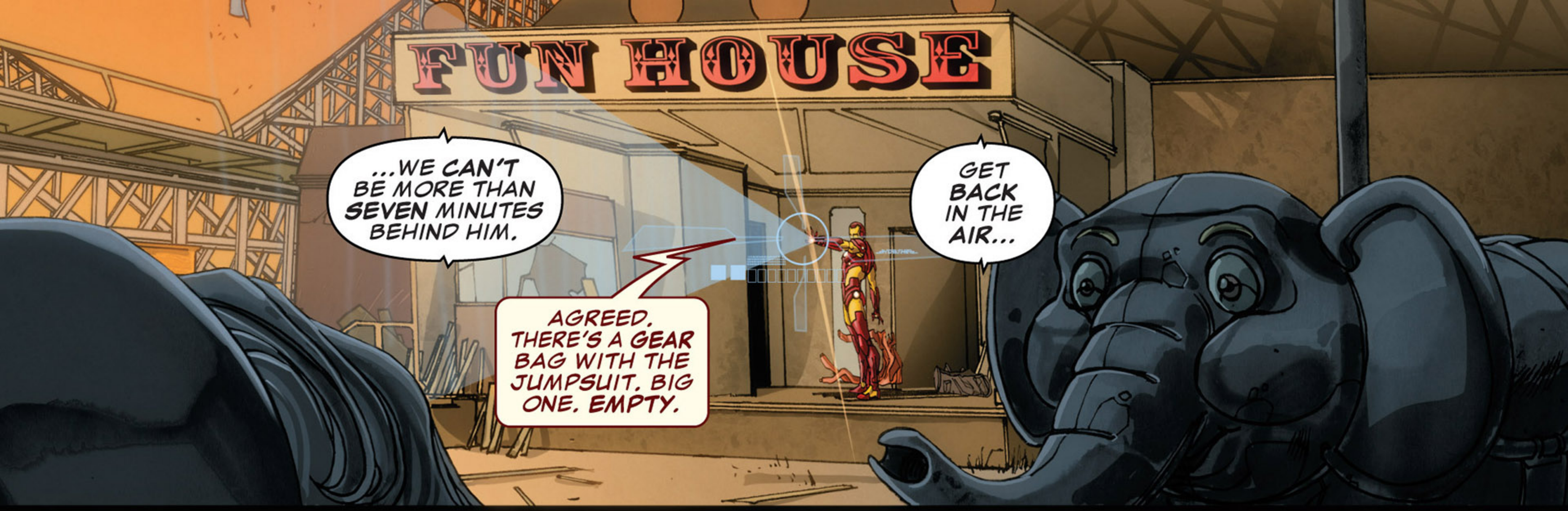
LESS
THAN YOU
THINK...











...WE CAN'T
BE MORE THAN
SEVEN MINUTES
BEHIND HIM.

GET
BACK
IN THE
AIR...

AGREED.
THERE'S A GEAR
BAG WITH THE
JUMPSUIT. BIG
ONE. EMPTY.

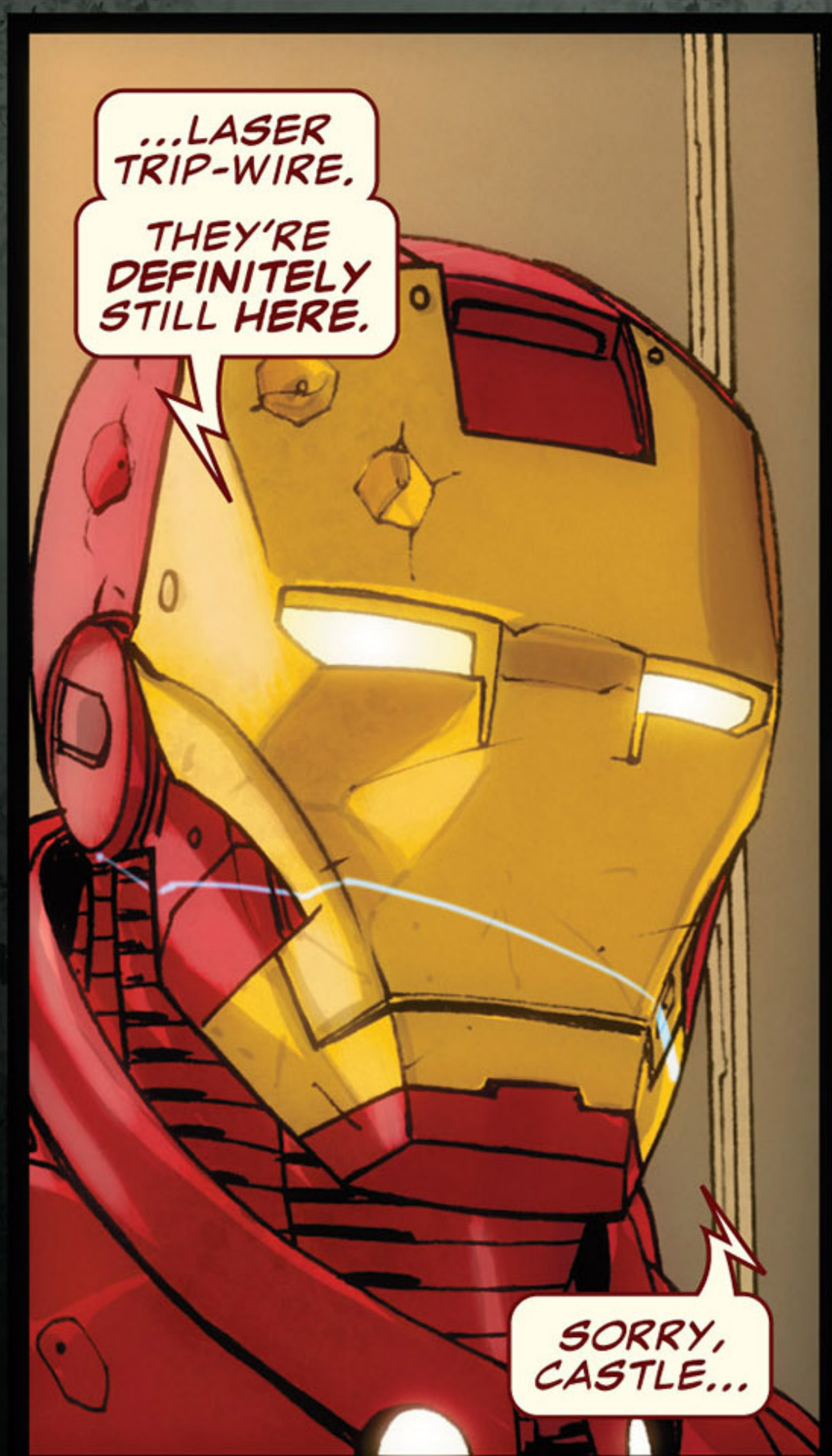


...YOU'RE
ON HIS TERMS
IF YOU'RE ON
THE GROUND.

BULLET-
PROOF,
REMEMBER?



WAIT A
SECOND,
GOT SOME-
THING...



...LASER
TRIP-WIRE.
THEY'RE
DEFINITELY
STILL HERE.

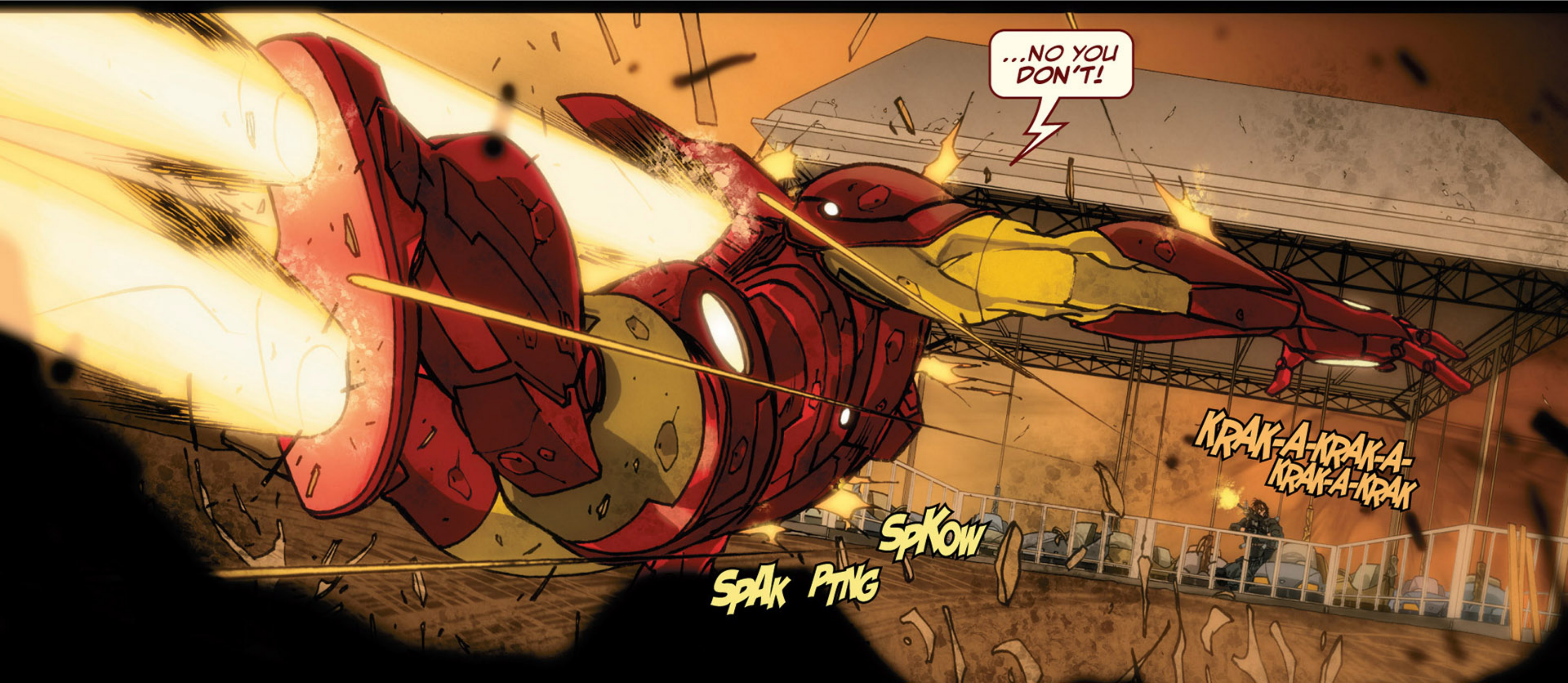
SORRY,
CASTLE...

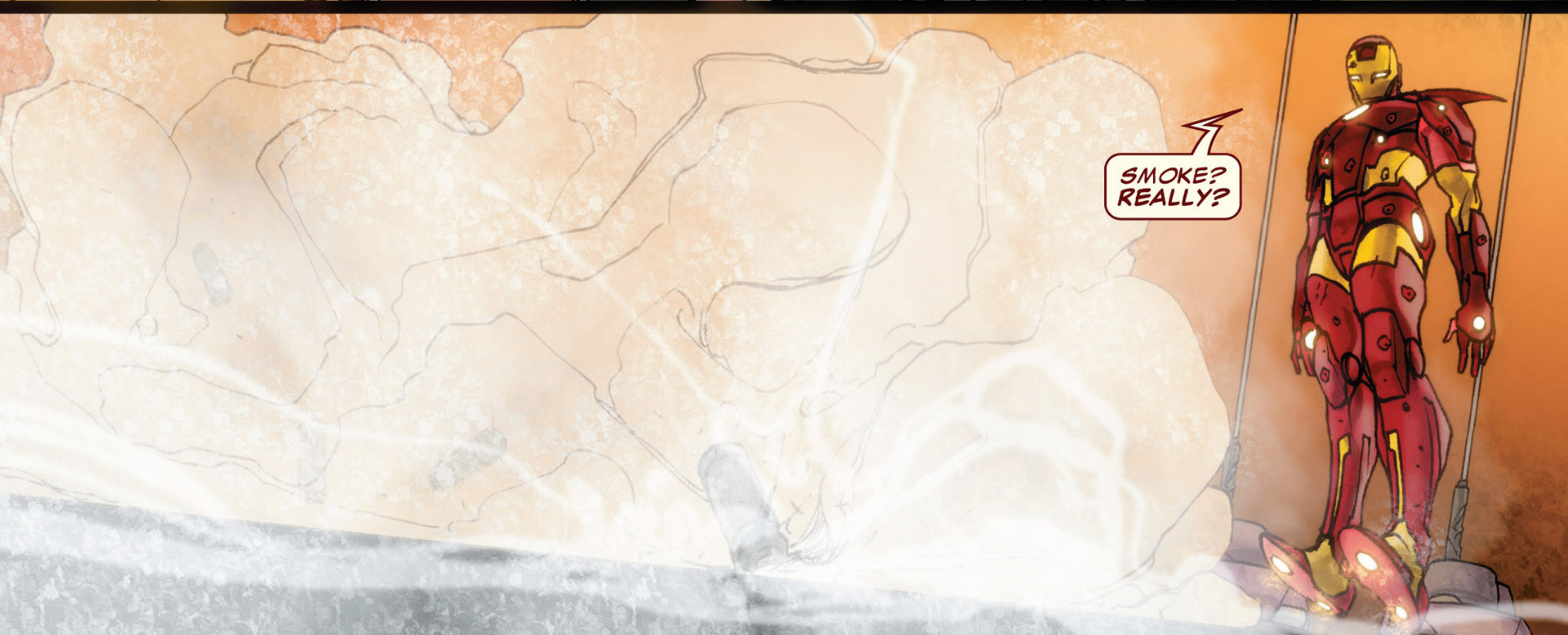
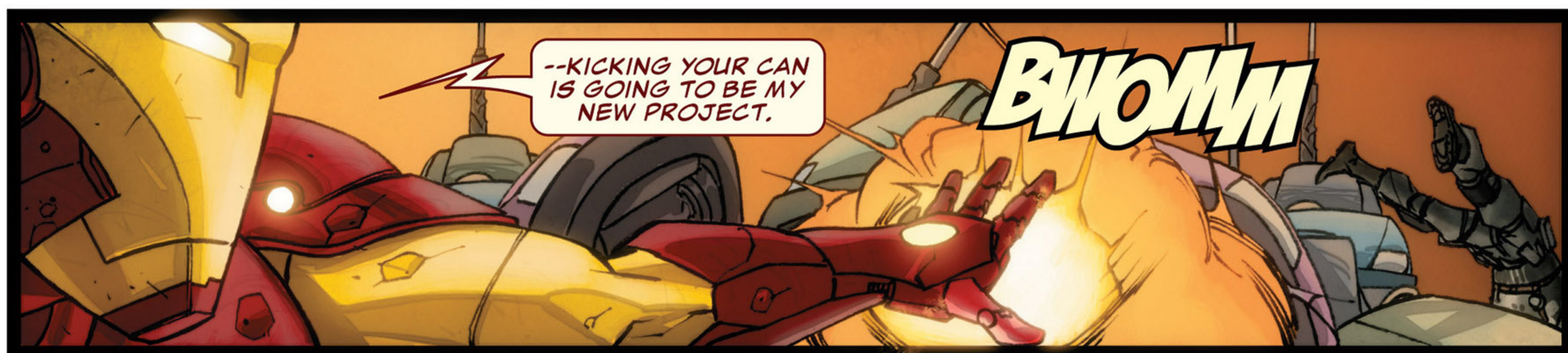


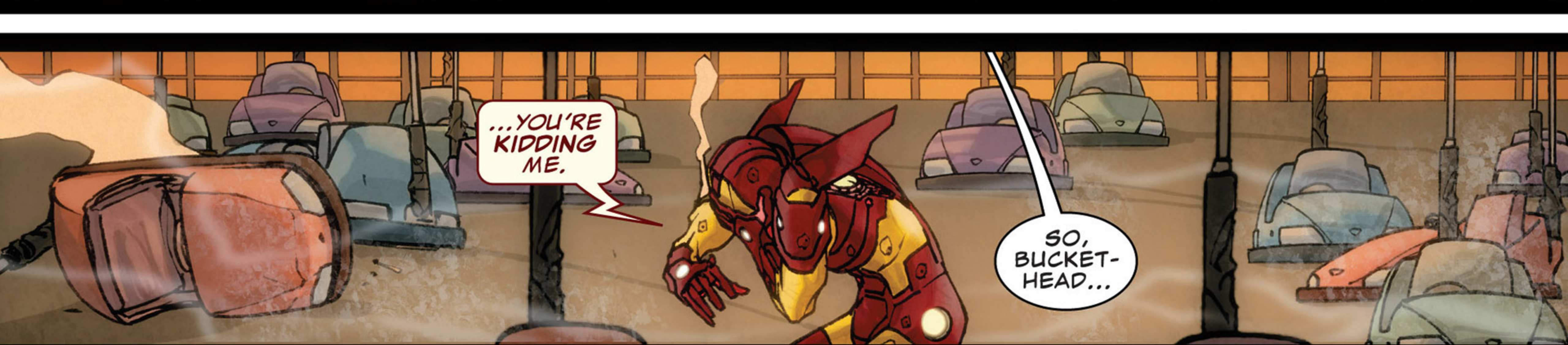
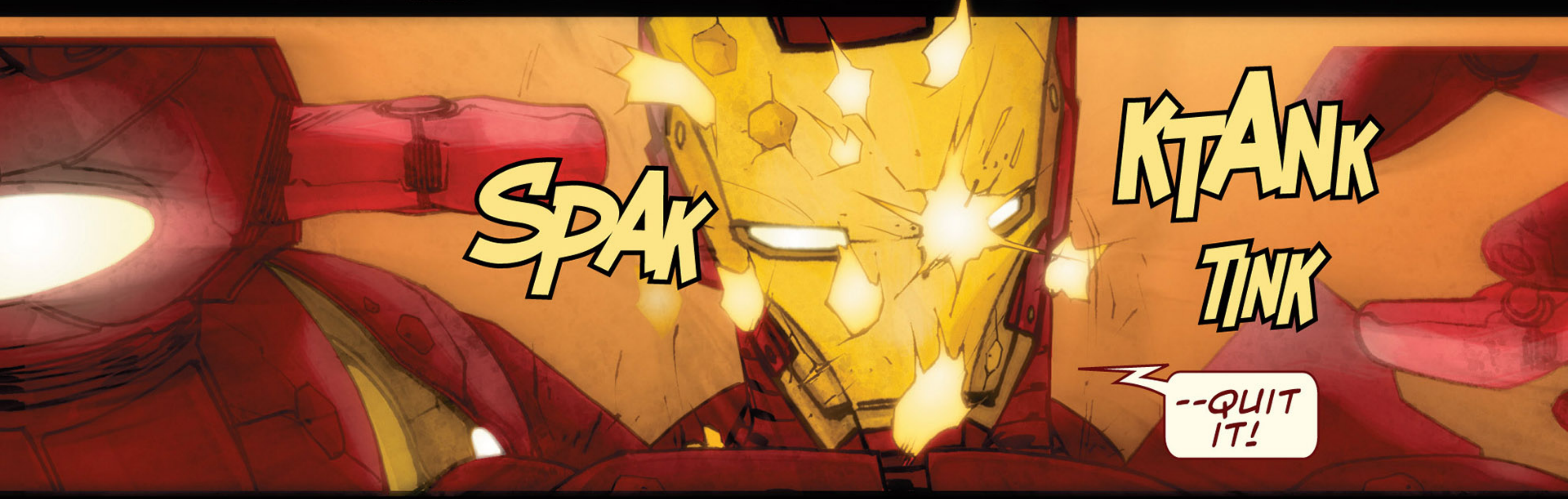
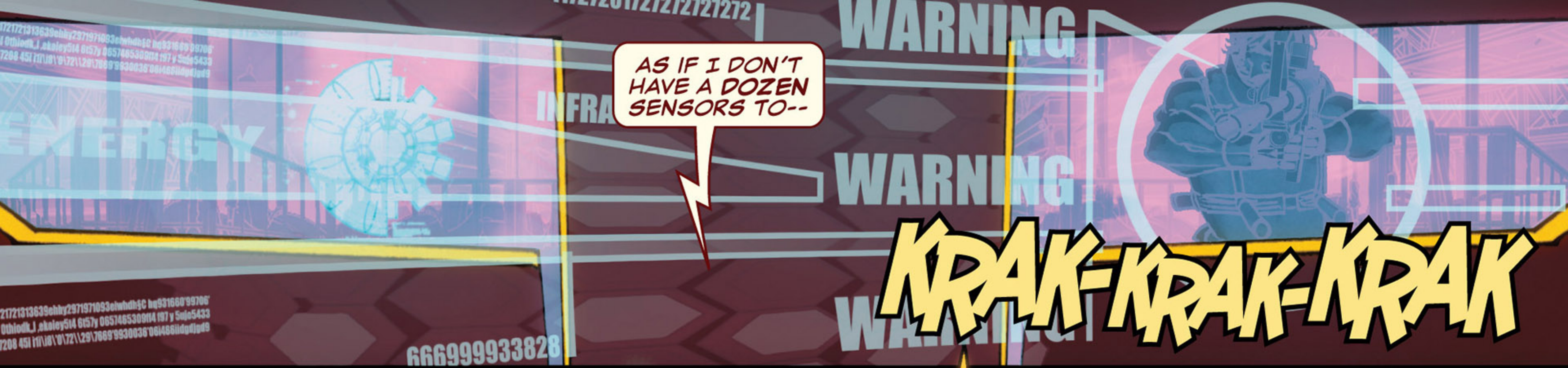
...YOU'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO DO
BETTER THAN
THAT.

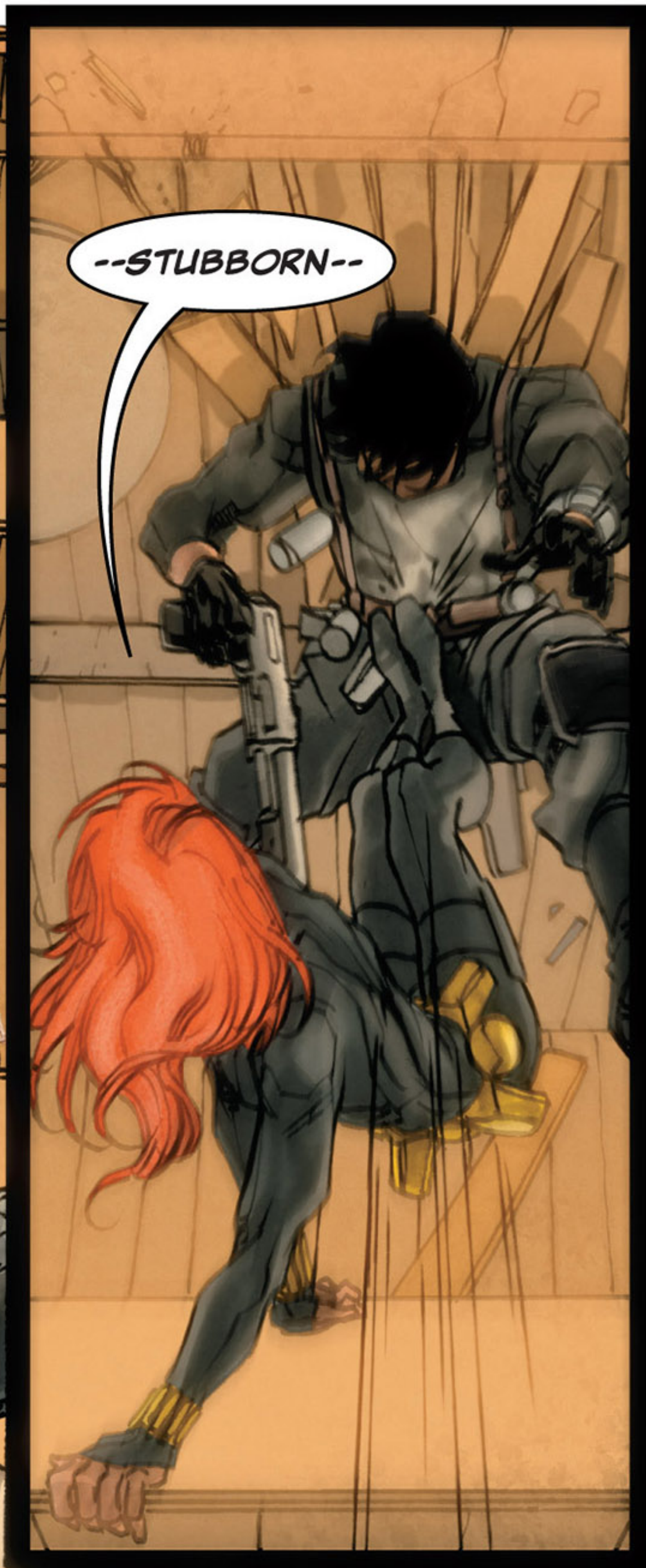
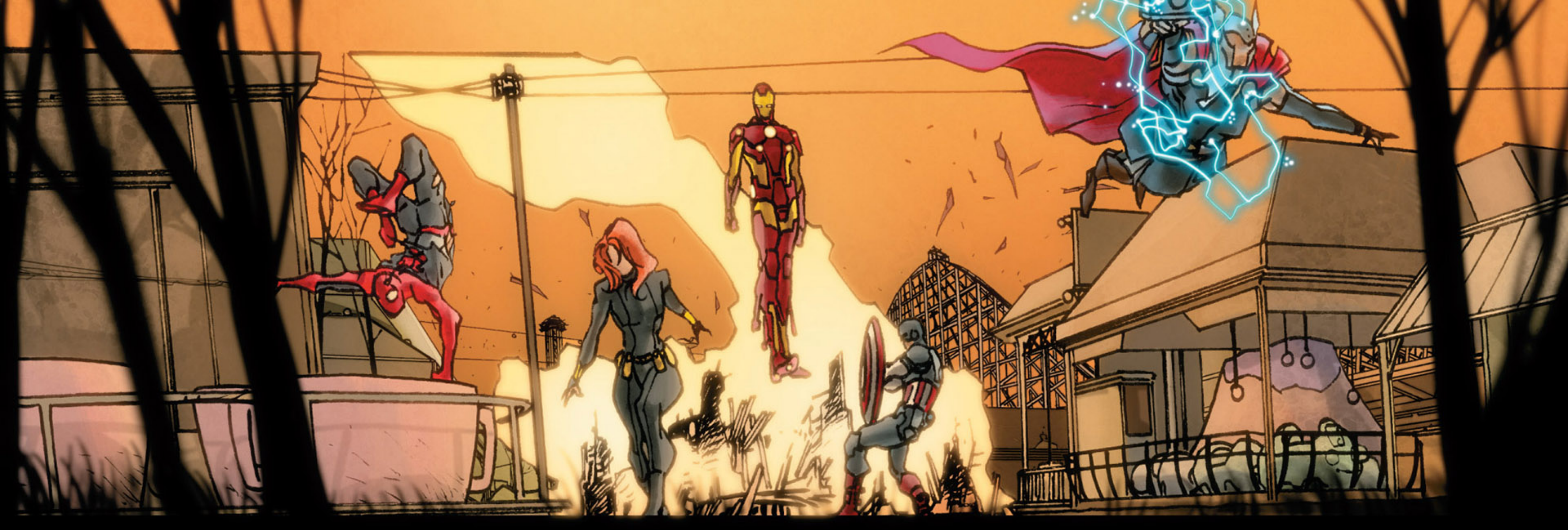


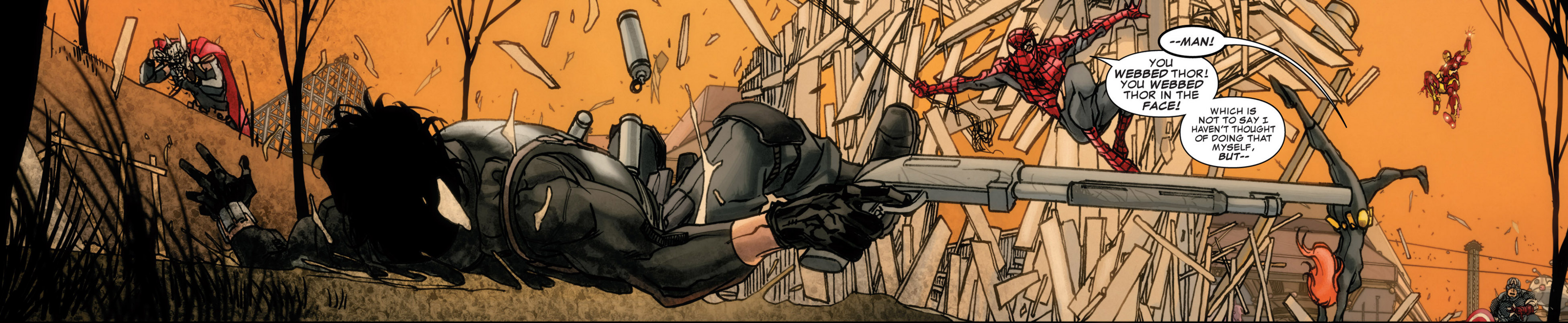
KRAK











--MAN!
YOU
WEBBED THOR!
YOU WEBBED
THOR IN THE
FACE!
WHICH IS
NOT TO SAY I
HAVEN'T THOUGHT
OF DOING THAT
MYSELF,
BUT--



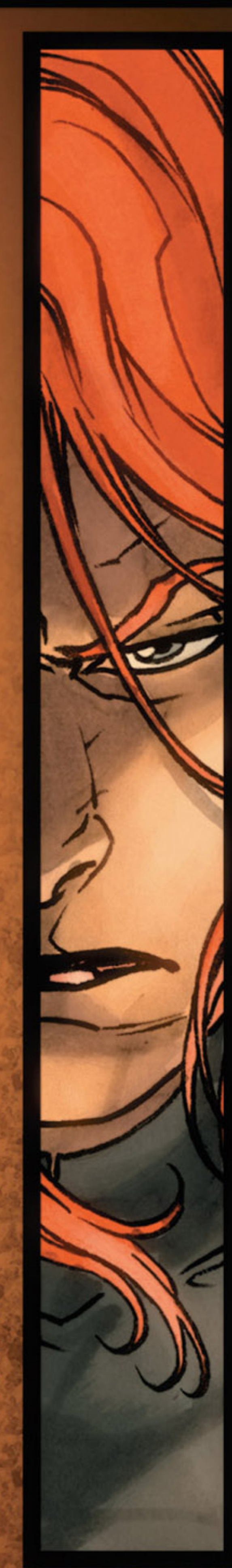
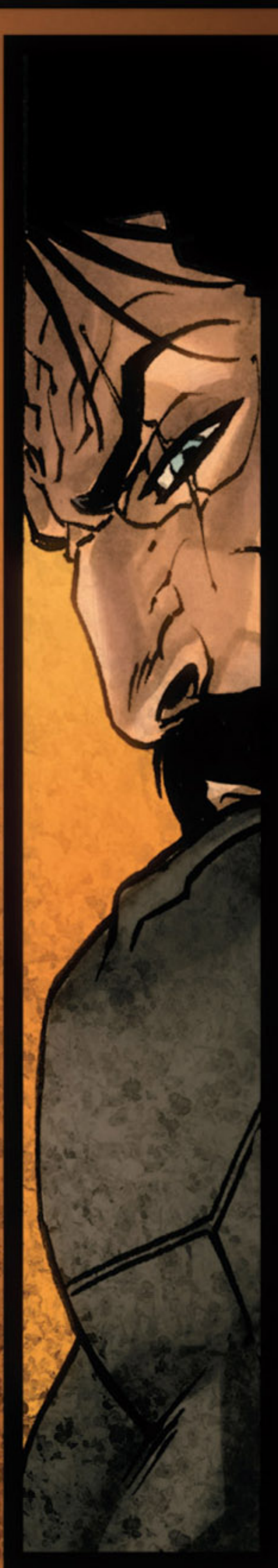
--STOP
USING MY
STUFF FOR
BAD
THINGS!



NUTS.



BLAM



HNNHN



CH-CHAN

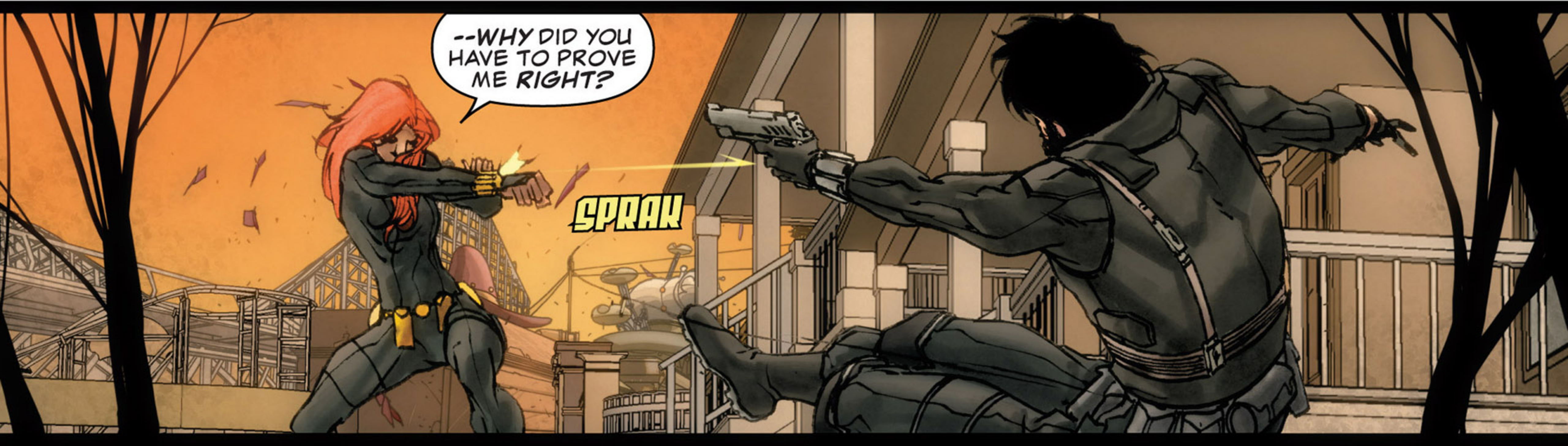


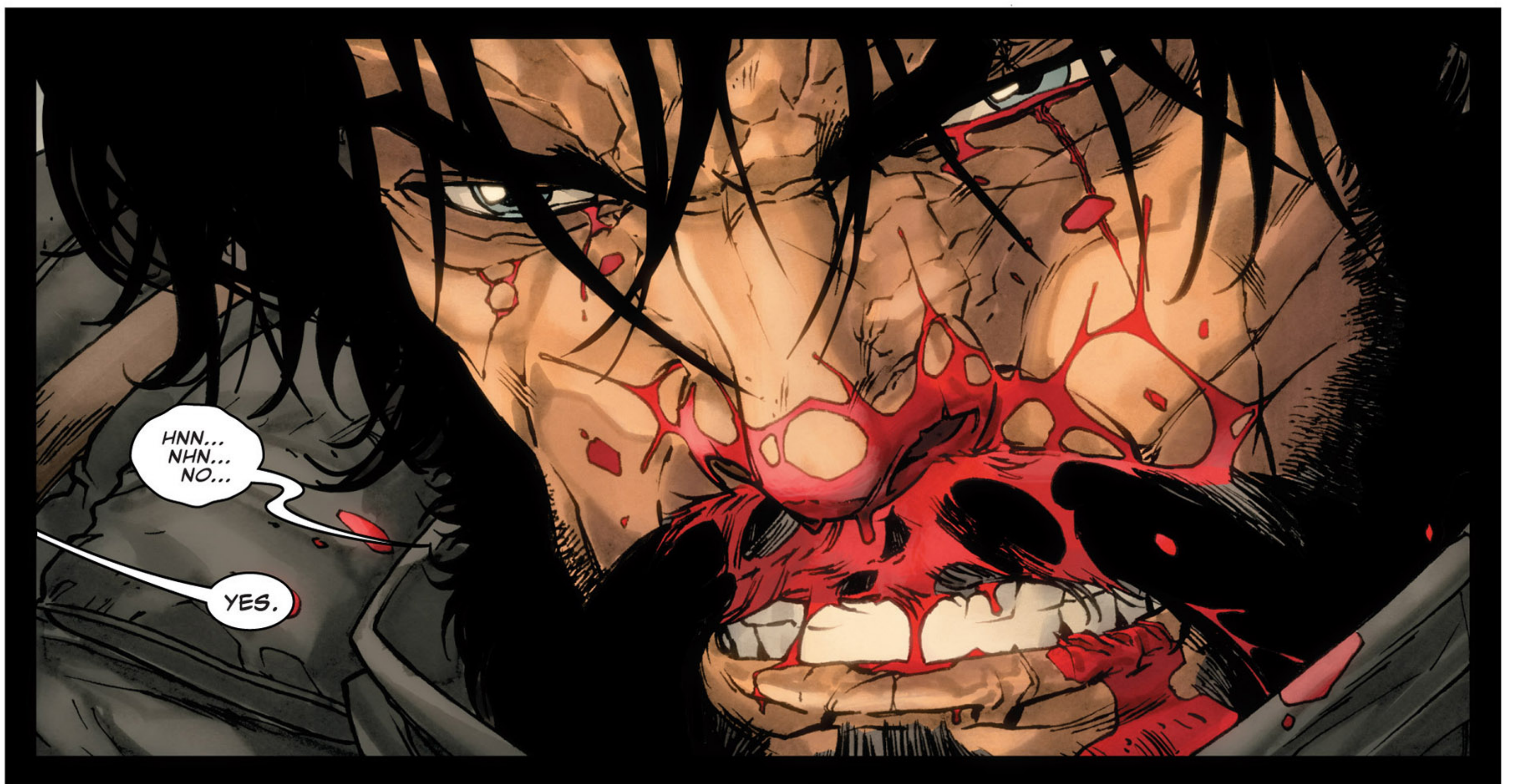
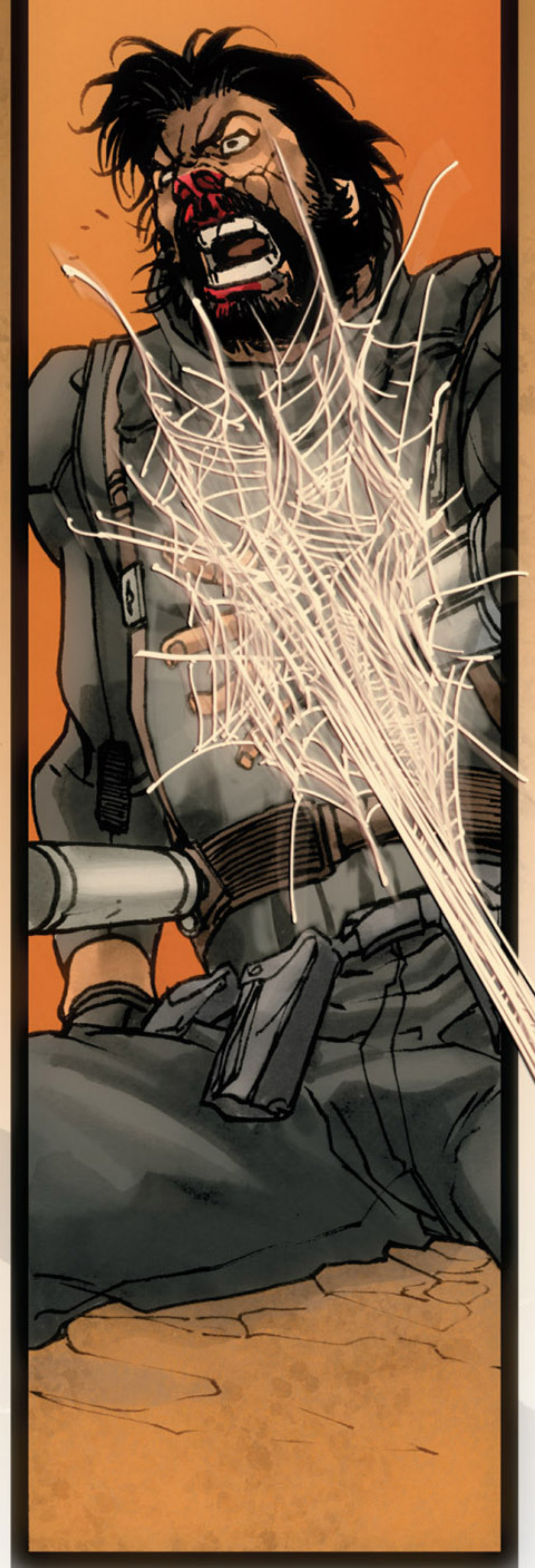
KRUMP

GNHH!



I SAID
BEFORE THAT
THIS WOULD
END IN
DEATH--







THE BONE,
500 METERS BELOW
LAKE MICHIGAN.

"HOW LONG DO
YOU THINK IT'LL
HOLD HIM?"

"FOREVER,
WEB-HEAD. I
BUILT IT TO DO
JUST THAT."

"FOOD, WATER,
WASTE DISPOSAL,
HOLOGRAPHIC
COMPUTER INTERFACE
SO HE CAN READ
ANY BOOK, WATCH
ANY SHOW..."

"...EXERCISE ROOM
DESIGNED TO BE
ESCAPE-PROOF,
NOTHING HE CAN
CANNIBALIZE TO
MAKE INTO A
WEAPON, TO MAKE
AN ESCAPE."

"HE'S THERE
UNTIL WE SAY
OTHERWISE, OR
UNTIL SOMEBODY
COMES ALONG AND
SETS HIM LOOSE."

"IT'S
FUNNY, I
DUNNO..."

"...FOR A
MURDERER, HE
WENT OUT OF
HIS WAY TO KEEP
FROM HURTING
US. I MEAN,
THERE WERE REAL
BULLETS IN THAT
ASSAULT RIFLE..."

...BUT HE ONLY EVER
USED IT ON YOU,
LIKE HE KNEW THEY
WOULDN'T DO
ANYTHING.

AND RUBBER
PELLETS IN THE
SHOTGUN. EVEN
HIS PISTOL WAS
UNLOADED.

HE TOOK
US ALL ON JUST TO
BUY COLE TIME TO ESCAPE.
SO WE'VE GOT HIM, HE'S
LOCKED UP NOW, HE
CAN'T HURT ANYONE...

...SO WHY
DON'T I FEEL
LIKE WE
WON?

BECAUSE
WE DIDN'T.

WE
TOOK HIM
TO WAR.

TAKE
IT FROM
ME...

LOS ANGELES.

"...NOBODY
GETS TO FEEL
LIKE THEY
WON."

NO!
LET GO,
PLEASE--

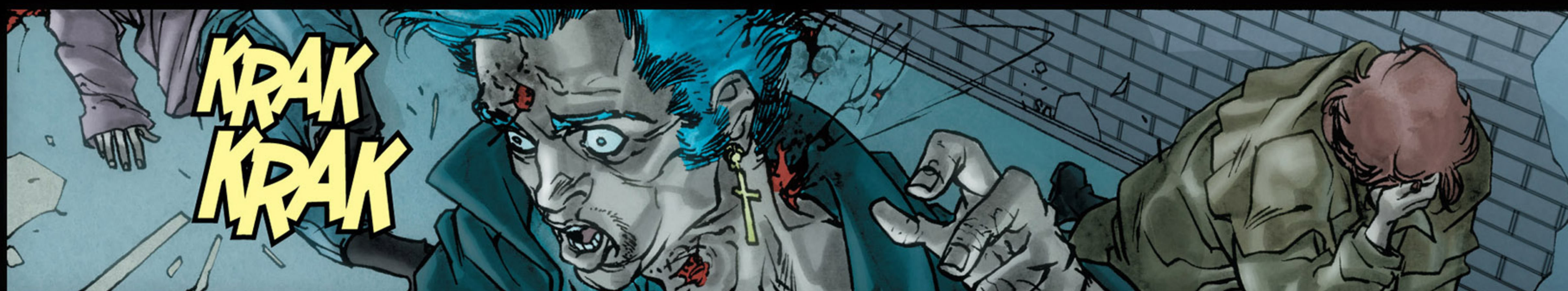


--DON'T,
PLEASE!

HNFFF

AHH!

DAMMIT!
YOU'RE GOING
TO PAY FOR
THAT--



Send letters to:

mheroes@marvel.com • 135 W 50TH ST, 7TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10020 (PLEASE MARK OKAY TO PRINT)

LET'S BE FRANK

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And that's a wrap folks. Ellie and I want to give many thanks, first and foremost, to all of you for supporting this book over the past 21 issues. It's been an absolute pleasure to work with Greg, Carmine, Marco, Matt, Joe and everyone who worked to bring you this new adventure in the twisted and tragic life of Frank Castle.

Honestly, we're ending a bit sooner than we had hoped, but we appreciate that we were given a chance to end our story in a way that brings closure to the players involved. I couldn't be more proud of this book and the work of the people involved. In the end, I hope we did good by one of Marvel's most interesting characters.

We'll leave you with some final missives from you.

Dear Let's Be Frank crew,

Rucka is a master storyteller and War Zone is no exception. With Di Giandomenico's art, Hollingsworth's colors, Joe's lettering and Marco's covers, it's like back to back to back to back Home Runs. And I'm kinda pissed we will only be getting 5 issues. I know Punisher sales aren't up there with the other titles, but this incarnation of War Zone is just flat out fan-freaking-tastic.

Joshua S. Turner
Katy, TX.

Mr. Wacker,

Punisher: War Zone this week gave me a jagged, toothy smile. It is something special.

James Hepplewhite

Dear Marvel,

I used to be a diehard Punisher fan that collected every single issue he was in. However, I had lost interest in the character and slowly ventured away from him. The "Punisher War Zone" storyline has made me wish I had never stopped collecting the Punisher.

Punisher is a guilty pleasure and it is fun following an outlaw. He has evaded law enforcement for decades. Now he has crossed paths with the Avengers and they have decided to take him in. This is honestly one of the coolest storylines that I have seen in awhile. It will be interesting to see what happens to Wolverine as well.

Will the Avengers turn on him since he continues to kill! Only time will tell keep up the great work!

Doug Bergman

Dear Let's be Frank,

I am really liking this series and issue #2 was a very fun read.

Also a huge thumbs up to Di Giandomenico & Hollingsworth for the artwork, the comic was visually awesome. Can't wait for the next issue!

My 28th birthday is next month so I am formally requesting a birthday shoutout.

Victor Cuevas

This is your formal "Happy birthday," Victor! Cut it out and put it on your wall!

As I'm cleaning out the files here in Punisher HQ, let me share with you some stuff!

We'll start with an unused promo sketch from Marco Chechetto. He did these as a warm up when he started on the book and nailed the "vibe" Greg was going for immediately.

When Marco had to leave for some unfortunate personal reasons, my first choice to take over was Carmine who got so excited he sent these in about 10 minutes after I sent my e-mail.



FRANK



We had to add Frank's beard in, but he got the "stoic, heaviness" that Greg and I wanted and completely dived into the book enthusiastically.

Once again, we sincerely appreciate the dedicated support of our readers these past couple years. We know you have a lot of choices for your comic spending dollar and we're honored to have made the cut.

You can catch more of Frank Castle in the current Marvel Now! hit book "Thunderbolts" and I've also heard rumblings down the hall for some more plans in the near future. Keep your ears to the ground for more announcements.

So with that we say goodbye on behalf of the entire team.

All right. `Nuff blabbin'! Move `em out!

Steve Wacker
1/31/13

NONNE

